

CLAIMS

1. A recording medium access device for accessing a recording medium having a plurality of functions
5 comprising:
 - a switching part that can be operated from the outside; and
 - a card controller for issuing a switching command to switch an operation of said recording medium to the

10 attached recording medium according to an operation to said switching part.
2. The recording medium access device according to claim 1, wherein said switching part is a switch part for
15 holding the switched state.
3. The recording medium access device according to claim 2 further comprising a determination part for detecting a state of said switching part at initialization
20 of said recording medium or said recording medium access device and determining whether or not an operation to said recording medium is switched, wherein
said card controller issues the switching command to said recording medium according to a determination result
25 of said determination part.

4. The recording medium access device according to
claim 1, wherein

5 said switching part is a switch part for inputting
switching.

5. The recording medium access device according to
claim 1,

10 wherein said recording medium access device is an
adapter attached to an information processing device for
relaying a signal between said information processing
device and said recording medium.

6. The recording medium access device according to
15 claim 5, wherein

 said adapter is used in coupling a plurality of
adapters to each other, and

 each adapter has a switching part for independently
switching an operation of said recording medium.

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7. The recording medium access device according to
claim 5, wherein

 said recording medium has an authentication area
requiring mutual authentication with an information
25 processing device, and

said card controller issues a switching command after completion of the mutual authentication.

8. The recording medium access device according to
5 claim 1, wherein

 said switching part has a plurality of switching states.

9. The recording medium access device according to
10 claim 8, wherein

 said switching part is a switch part for holding the switching states, and,

 said card controller detects the state of a plurality of said switching parts in a predetermined priority order.

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10. The recording medium access device according to
claim 1, wherein

 said card controller gives priority to setting of the switching part close to either of said recording medium or
20 said information processing device.

11. The recording medium access device according to
claim 5 further comprising a notification determination part for determining whether or not to inform to said
25 information processing device that an operation of said

recording medium has been switched, wherein
when determination is made that notification is
required by said notification determination part, said card
controller informs that the operation of said recording
5 medium has been switched to said information processing
device.

12. The recording medium access device according to
claim 11, wherein
10 said notification determination part judges necessity
of notification on the basis of setting of said information
processing device.

13. The recording medium access device according to
claim 5 comprising an area information storage part for
storing operation state of said recording medium therein,
wherein
when said switching part is operated, said card
controller compares area information stored in said area
20 information storage part and issues a switching command to
said recording medium if a change has been occurred.

14. The recording medium access device according to
claim 1 comprising:
25 a state information storage part for holding state

information of said recording medium; and
a display part for displaying an operation state of
said information recording medium.

5 15. The recording medium access device according to
claim 1 comprising a state information storage part for
storing state information of said information recording
medium therein, wherein

when said switching part is operated, said card
10 controller compares state stored in said state information
storage part and issues a switching command to said
recording medium if the change has been occurred.

16. A recording medium access method in a recording
15 medium access device for accessing a recording medium
having a plurality of functions comprising:

 a switching step of detecting an input operation from
 the outside; and

 a card control step of issuing a switching command to
20 switch an operation of said recording medium to the
 attached recording medium when said switching step is
 operated.

17. The recording medium access method according to
25 claim 16, wherein

said switching step holds the switched state.

18. The recording medium access method according to
 claim 17 further comprising a determination step of
5 detecting the state of said switching step at
 initialization of said recording medium or said recording
 medium access device and determining whether or not an
 operation to said recording medium is switched, wherein
 said card control step issues the switching command
10 to said recording medium according to the determination
 result of said determination part.

19. The recording medium access method according to
 claim 16, wherein
15 said switching step is a step of inputting switching.

20. The recording medium access method according to
 claim 16, wherein
 said recording medium access device is an adapter attached
20 to an information processing device for relaying a signal
 between said information processing device and said
 recording medium.

21. The recording medium access method according to
25 claim 16, wherein

said adapter is used in coupling a plurality of adapters to each other, and

 each adapter has a switching step of independently switching an operation of said recording medium.

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 22. The recording medium access device according to claim 20, wherein

 said recording medium has an authentication area requiring mutual authentication with an information processing device, and

 said card control step issues a switching command after completion of the mutual authentication.

 23. The recording medium access method according to 15 claim 16, wherein

 said switching step is a step of inputting by a plurality of switch parts for holding the switching states, and,

 said card control step of detecting state of a 20 plurality of said switching parts in a predetermined priority order.

 24. The recording medium access method according to claim 20, wherein further comprising a notification 25 determination step of determining whether or not the fact

that the operation of said recording medium has been switched is informed to said information processing device, wherein

when determination is made that notification is required by said notification determination part, said card control step informs the fact that the operation of said recording medium has been switched to said information processing device.

10 25. The recording medium access method according to claim 23, wherein

said notification determination step judges necessity of notification on the basis of setting of said information processing device.

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26. The recording medium access method according to claim 20 comprising an area information storage step of storing operation state of said recording medium, wherein when said switching part is operated, said card control step compares area information stored in said area information storage step and issues a switching command to said recording medium if a change has been occurred.

27. The recording medium access method according to 25 claim 16 comprising:

a state information storage step of holding state information of said recording medium; and

a display step of displaying an operation state of said information recording medium.

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28. The recording medium access method according to claim 16 comprising a state information storage step of storing the state information of said information recording medium therein, wherein

10 when input is made in said switching step, said card control step compares state stored in said state information storage step and issues a switching command said recording medium if the change has been occurred.